SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 13

'ODDS AGAINST JETS'
LADD, OTHERS NEED TO STEP UP NOW
COLUMN {page 18}

DINNER PARTY
CREATE A DECADENT RIB-ROAST DINNER
{page 15}

HAT IS BACK
STYLES FROM ALL DECADES BECOMING TRENDY AGAIN {page 14}

WINNIPEG metro®
Thursday, February 2, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Four people and a gun pulled out of house fire

Improperly stored firearm removed from burning home **One person transported to hospital**

SHANE GIBSON
@METRONEWS.CA

Two people were taken to hospital after fire tore through a North End home Wednesday.

Firefighters, police and emergency services responded to the blaze in a two-storey house in the 200 block of Bannerman Avenue around 10:40 a.m.

Police say the home had been divided into four separate suites and the four people in the building at the time were all evacuated.

One person was transported to hospital in critical condition, but was later upgraded to stable condition and another person was transported in stable condition. The other two people were treated for minor injuries at the scene.

As firefighters battled the blaze, what appeared to be a hunting rifle was removed from the home and police confirm an improperly stored firearm was found and taken out as a precaution.

The cause of the fire is not yet known, and while police say the fire did not appear to be suspicious, the Arson Strike Force was notified.

"Right now I don't believe it's suspicious in nature," said WPS spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen.

A damage estimate was not immediately available.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

▶ An officer removes a firearm from the house in the 200 block of Bannerman Avenue on Wednesday.

1 news

Smith slips, no one helps

Winnipeg councillor Harvey Smith underwent surgery for a broken pelvis Wednesday after he slipped and fell at the corner of Market Avenue and Main Street.

"You want to know the crazy thing?" asked fellow councillor Ross Eadie. "No one stopped to help him. There were all these cars driving around him and no one stopped to get out and help him."

Eadie said a city hall employee standing outside during a cigarette break recognized him and helped him off the street.

Smith fell Tuesday afternoon while he and Eadie were handing out pamphlets outlining their protest against a proposed 20-cent transit fare hike.

Eadie said Smith's doctor thinks the recovery time will be short. "Harvey is quite active," said Eadie. "And because he's so active, the doctor thinks it'll just be a matter of weeks."

Eadie said Smith is determined to make it to the Feb. 22 council meeting to vote down the fare hike.

ELISHA DACEY

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

▶ Before the fall: Harvey Smith, right, and Ross Eadie hand out pamphlets on Portage Avenue on Tuesday.

Victim stressed, court told

Sister tells of domestic strife before woman was bludgeoned

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mark Stobbe, centre, arrives at court in Winnipeg with his lawyer Tim Killeen and an unidentified woman on Wednesday.

In the weeks before her violent death, Beverly Rowbotham's marriage was being strained by loneliness and a sprawling house in bad need of repair, her sister testified Wednesday.

"She felt very isolated," Betty Rowbotham told jurors at the second-degree murder trial of Beverly's husband, Mark Stobbe.

"She felt Mark was spending way, way too much time at work.

"She was quite stressed."

Beverly Rowbotham and Stobbe had moved from Regina — where he had worked as a senior adviser to then Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow — to a rural property in St. Andrew's, Man., in the spring of 2000.

Stobbe had taken a job with the Manitoba government as a communications adviser. In October 2000, Rowbotham was found dead in her car some 20 kilometres away from her home.

Her head had been bludgeoned.

Eight years later, Stobbe was charged with second-degree murder.

His trial is expected to last two months.

"I think they were very much in love ... they would cuddle a lot," Betty Rowbowtham said of the couple's early years in Regina.

They married in 1993 and appeared content, she said, but tensions began to rise after they moved to Manitoba in 2000.

The house was infested with carpenter ants, several doors were sticking and there was a long list of needed repairs.

Beverly Rowbotham eventually became "very angry, very annoyed" and wanted to sell the house, her sister said.

Beverly also had "quite a temper," her sister testified.

"She would yell. She was very quick to cut people off."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Scientists create a rather intimidating swarm of nanorobots. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Drug search nabs man and woman

Two people were taken from an apartment in the 900 block of Corydon Avenue in handcuffs around 1:45 a.m. Wednesday after police executed a drug-search warrant.

Several police cars and an ambulance were at the scene and a police dog was led into the building after the pair were taken away in separate cruisers.

Police said a small amount of drugs were seized and an adult male and an adult female were arrested and later released on a promise to appear.

METRO

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

▶ A man is led away in handcuffs after a police raid on Corydon Avenue.

News in brief

Kind cops help elderly victim

ROBBERY. Winnipeg Police have set up a trust account after an 88-year-old woman was robbed.

Police say the woman was shopping at a store on Selkirk Avenue and left the building. Two women followed her to a nearby back lane. The woman was grabbed and fell. Her purse containing an undisclosed amount of money was stolen, police say.

People can donate to the trust account at the Winnipeg Police Credit Union.

Two women have been charged with robbery with violence and detained.

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News in brief

Stun gun likely used in mall theft: Police

CRIME. Two men pointed what appeared to be a Taser at a young store employee while Grant Park Shopping Centre was closing up Tuesday.

Winnipeg police say the men entered the mall just before closing time at 9 p.m. Concealing their identities and armed with a Taser or stun gun, the pair confronted a 19-year-old male cashier and demanded money.

The cashier handed over an undisclosed amount of cash. He was not injured.

Police are looking for two white men, 25 to 35 years old, one about five-foot-10 and the other about six-foot-two with a medium build.

METRO

Minor quake hits close to home

TREMOR. A small earthquake originating near Esterhazy, Sask., was felt as far away as south-central Manitoba.

The earthquake, measuring at a magnitude of 3.3, happened just before 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, according to a U.S. Geological Survey report.

The quake was felt about 72 kilometres southeast of Yorkton, Sask., 138 km WSW of Dauphin, and 164 km SSW of Swan River. It was about 5 km deep.

There were no reports of damages. One person in Esterhazy reported feeling the tremors.

ELISHA DACEY

Trio wanted in armed robbery

CRIME. Winnipeg police are on the lookout for three men after three people were robbed at knifepoint Tuesday.

Police said three male victims, aged 17, 18 and 25, were walking through a parking lot near Pembina Highway and Dalhousie Drive when they were approached by three men.

One of the men took out a knife and demanded the victims' money, cigarettes and other personal belongings. The 18-year-old was physically assaulted in the upper body, police said.

Police are looking for three aboriginal males, standing five-foot-seven to five-foot-nine and weighing 170 to 200 pounds.

One of the suspects was wearing a black puffy jacket. The second suspect was described as having short dark hair and wearing a bandana over his face. There is no description of the third suspect.

METRO

Icy. Blanket

▶ 'Peggers woke up to a blanket of hoarfrost Wednesday morning, including Jackie S., a Twitter user who tweeted out this photo of the frost next to a blue truck.

@JACKIELOVESREBA/TWITTER

Frost dusts city in white

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Black. History

▶ Two new Canada Post stamps were issued Wednesday to honour two black Canadians: Viola Desmond and John Ware.

CANADA POST/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Postal tributes to Canadian icons

Stamps commemorate Viola Desmond who sat in the whites-only section of a Nova Scotia theatre. She was forcibly removed, arrested and fined. John Ware was a former U.S. slave who became a pioneer of the ranching industry in Alberta.

Canadian woman faces charges in Gadhafi plot

Cynthia Vanier, a mediator from Mount Forest, Ont., has been formally charged in a plot to allegedly smuggle Moammar Gadhafi's son into that country by arranging secret flights and falsifying passports.

Charges have also be laid on two Mexicans and a Danish suspect.

"Her situation has changed, she is no longer detained pending charges, there has now been an arrest warrant," Veronica Gil, a spokeswoman with the state's attorney's office, told The Canadian Press. "We have established formal charges."

The charges include attempted human trafficking, falsifying documents and organized crime.

The arrests, announced during a news conference in Mexico, stem from an investigation officials said began in 2009 over the theft of 4,586 blank Mexican passports.

Prosecutors allege the accused tried to sneak Gadhafi and his family into the country, renting an airplane to fly them to Mexico. The attempt was foiled, they say, because the pilots refused to land secretly.

The ring, purportedly led by Vanier, then allegedly made arrangements for a second attempt, hiring pilots and a plane. But Mexican authorities were tipped off to the scheme and arrested the four suspects in November. All four had been held without charges for nearly three months.

Up until they were detained, authorities said, the group worked toward their goal of smuggling the family to Mexico, falsifying documents, obtaining credit and buying a home in Bahia de Banderas in the Nayarit area, where the Gadhafis were to hide out, as well as another apartment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family Outcry

Vanier's parents denied the allegations against their daughter, and expressed frustration over the Canadian government's lack of involvement.

- **Vanier's parents say that** their daughter is terrified. She has no medication and that the cell has no running water.
- **A spokesman for Foreign** Affairs said Canada would continue to interact with Mexican authorities on Vanier's behalf "as required," especially to ensure that her medical concerns are addressed.

Senator withdraws controversial words

Tory Boisvenu apologizes for earlier comments on offering suicidal hanging to Canada's worst offenders

A Conservative senator backed away from an unconventional proposal Wednesday for reducing prison costs: give serial murderers a rope and let them decide whether to hang themselves.

"Basically, every killer should (have) the right to his own rope in his cell. They can decide whether to live," Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu said, referring to people who "had no hope of rehabilitation."

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu

The comment about hanging came on the same day an awareness campaign was launched on youth mental health. There have also been a number of recent, high-profile prison suicides in Quebec.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper distanced himself from the remarks, but said he understood Boisvenu's feelings. Boisvenu became a victims'-rights advocate after his daughter was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2002. Harper appointed him to the Senate two years ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Hitman's roots traced

Long before bouncing off a turnbuckle or delivering a body-slam, ancestors of one of professional wrestling's most notorious families travelled much of the known world.

That's according to researchers with National Geographic's Genographic Project, who recently acquired and analyzed a sample of DNA provided by Bret Hart.

"It pretty much goes back to the beginning of time," he told Metro. "When you understand the dynamics of it, it's really interesting stuff."

Leading researcher Dr. Spencer Wells said the project aims to answer an almost philosophical question — where do we all come from?

In the Hart instance, Bret says analysis suggests his ancestors can be linked to areas like India, Iran and much of Europe.

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F-F-F-Frosty. Europe

▶ An elderly couple braves the bitter cold as they walk alongside the Moscow River on Wednesday. Temperatures in the area fell to -21 C.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe battles cold spell

Rescue helicopters evacuated dozens of people from snow-blocked villages in Serbia and Bosnia, and airlifted in emergency food and medicine as a severe cold spell kept Eastern Europe in its icy grip.

Oil from Concordia cruise ship spreads through Italy's waters

Activists fear leaking fuel will harm marine life Officials identify 17th body

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia lies on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.

A thin film of oil spread from the Costa Concordia cruise ship as waves battered the wreckage off Italy's coast Wednesday, adding to fears of an environmental disaster in the area's sensitive, pristine waters. Authorities were trying to assess how serious and extensive the spread was, but said that so far it didn't appear alarming.

Italian authorities also identified a German woman, Siglinde Stumpf, as being among those killed in the Jan. 13 capsizing of the vessel. Stumpf is the 17th person whose body has been identified. Fifteen others are listed as missing.

The search for the missing has been hampered by rough seas, with emergency officials ending the search in the submerged part of the ship due to the danger to rescue workers.

A large crack also appeared Wednesday between two glass panels that formed part of the roof of the massive ship.

The oil film was spreading from a separate part of the ship, apparently the stern.

The ship contains about 500,000 gallons of heavy fuel and other pollutants, and fears have grown that those chemicals could damage an environment that is home to dolphins, whales and other marine life.

Authorities are hoping to pump fuel from the ship, but due to bad weather the effort was being suspended again Wednesday.

Floating barriers placed around the ship to protect the water were lifted by winds, allowing the oily film from the ship to spread throughout the bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UN considers plans as Syrian uprising flares

UN struggles to overcome Russia's opposition to drafting a resolution for Syria

LOCAL COORDINATION COMMITTEES IN SYRIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a caricature of Syrian President Bashar Assad's father during a demonstration.

Syrian troops battled army defectors in a string of towns in the mountains overlooking Damascus on Wednesday in a new assault to crush rebellious areas around the capital, activists said.

The battles in a mountain valley came after regime forces succeeded in largely retaking control of suburbs on the eastern side of the city in an offensive the past week that fueled some of the bloodiest days of the nearly 11-month-old uprising. More than 30 people were killed around the country Wednesday, activists said.

Activists say President Bashar Assad's forces have intensified their crackdown in hopes of silencing protesters and the army dissidents who have joined them as the United Nations Security Council debates a draft resolution demanding that Assad step down.

On Tuesday, Western powers and Arab countries at the U.N. sought to overcome Russia's opposition to the measure. Addressing the Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to allay Moscow's concerns that the resolution could open the door to eventual military intervention in Syria, as took place in Libya last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer. Clash

▶ Players from the Egyptian Al-Ahly club run for safety during clashes following their soccer match against Al-Masry at the soccer stadium in Port Said, Egypt, Wednesday. Dozens of Egyptians were killed in the riot.

AHMED HASSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly soccer riot resembled 'war'

At least 74 people were killed and hundreds injured when soccer fans rushed the field following an upset victory by the home team, Al-Masry, over its top club, Al-Ahly, setting off clashes and a stampede as riot police largely failed to intervene.

Tunisian billionaire faces removal

A billionaire member of Tunisia's once-dominant ruling clan whose stay in Canada since last year has been shrouded in mystery is scheduled to make a public appearance soon. The Immigration and Refugee Board announced Wednesday that Trabelsi has a date on April 23 to fight a decision to revoke his residency and boot him out. THE CANADIAN PRESS.

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Mitt Romney charges ahead

Half of Florida primary voters said most important factor for them was a candidate who could defeat Obama

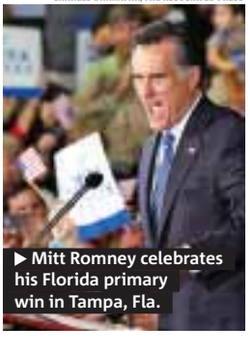
Mitt Romney clobbered Newt Gingrich by 14 percentage points in Florida's Republican primary vote and moves on to the next state, Nevada, with a fat campaign bankroll and a renewed sense that he is the inevitable challenger to President Barack Obama in November.

Romney spoke as though he was the presumptive nominee Tuesday night, declaring himself ready "to lead this party and our nation."

"Mr. President, you were elected to lead, you chose to follow, and now it's time to get out of the way," he said.

Obama's campaign issued a fundraising appeal Wednesday focused on the millions that Romney and his supporters have poured into negative ads.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Mitt Romney celebrates his Florida primary win in Tampa, Fla.

"That's ugly, and it tells us a lot about what to expect from Romney if he wins the Republican nomination," said campaign manager Jim Messina. "They're going to try to spend and smear their way to the White House."

With Obama vulnerable in his bid for a second White House term because of the slow U.S. economic recovery, about half of Florida primary voters said the most important factor for them was a candidate who could defeat the president, according to exit poll results conducted for The Associated Press and television networks.

Florida was one of the hardest hit states after the collapse of the U.S. housing market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What. Winter?

▶ Hundreds of cars are stranded on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago on Feb. 2, 2011, top, while traffic moves smoothly on the same stretch of road on Wednesday.

KIICHIRO SATO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A change in the weather

This time last year, Chicago was covered in snow, following a winter blizzard of historic proportions, stranding drivers for up to 12 hours overnight on the city's main thoroughfare and giving many city schoolchildren their first-ever snow day.

Aussie bus workers net big bonus

Employees of an Australian bus company have been given a $15-million AU share of the proceeds of the sale of the business as a thank-you for their loyalty, the Herald Sun newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The 1,800 staff at Melbourne-based Grenda Corp. have received bonuses averaging more than $8,300 AU and as much as $30,000 after the Grenda family sold the 66-year-old business for $400 million, the Herald Sun newspaper reported.

Chief executive Geoff Grenda described the gratitude of staff — one of whom had been with the company for 52 years — as "overwhelming."

"We've had lots of loyal people over our 66-year journey and this was our way of rewarding the ones that are still with us," he told Nine Network television. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Public pensions prevent poverty: Research

- PM says OAS/GIC pension system needs overhaul
- Collection age could rise from 65 to 67 to cut costs

Research prepared for the federal government in 2009 shows that the old-age benefits cited by Stephen Harper as perhaps unsustainable are a key factor keeping seniors out of poverty.

The paper, titled Evaluation of the Old Age Security Program, shows that without Old Age Security or the Guaranteed Income Supplement, more than a third of women and more than a quarter of men in their 60s would fall below the poverty line. "The OAS programs have a significant influence on the incidence of low income," the report's author, Richard Shillington, wrote.

The benefits are most important in the Maritimes and the North. "The OAS/GIS makes a huge contribution to the reduction of poverty in old age," said Andrew Jackson, chief economic for the labour congress.

Prime Minister Harper announced last week that the public pension system is fiscally unsustainable, with costs expected to rise to $108 billion in 2030 from $41 billion this year.

Cutting costs will likely include raising the collection age. The presumption, said Jackson, is that people will work for an extra two years. "That is possible for some, but many older workers in their 60s are in ill health or are engaged in providing care for others." THE CANADIAN PRESS

OAS/GIC stats

- **About 98 per cent** of Canadians are eligible for OAS when they turn 65. To get the GIS top-up for low-income seniors, they must first qualify for OAS.
- **Research shows** that OAS and GIS improve an average senior's standard of living by about $7,000 a year.
- **For seniors with "modest" incomes,** OAS and GIS accounts for 70 per cent of their incomes.

Name. Game

▶ A Target Apparel store is shown in the Rainbow Centre in Sudbury last January.

GINO DONATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing fair-weather for Target

American chain Target Corp. has reached a deal with Fairweather Ltd. under which the Canadian fashion retailer has agreed to stop using the Target name.

Facebook's IPO pokes Wall Street's elite

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Facebook is going public after eight years.

Facebook made a much-anticipated status update Wednesday: The Internet social network is going public eight years after its computer-hacking CEO Mark Zuckerberg started the service at Harvard University.

That means anyone with the right amount of cash will be able to own part of a Silicon Valley icon that quickly transformed from dorm-room startup to cultural touchstone.

If its initial public offering makes enough friends on Wall Street, Facebook will probably make its stock-market debut in three or four months as one of the world's most valuable companies. In its regulatory filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Facebook Inc. indicated it hopes to raise $5 billion US.

That would be the most for an Internet IPO since Google Inc. and its early backers raised $1.9 billion in 2004. The final amount will likely change as Facebook's bankers gauge the investor demand.

Joining corporate America's elite would give Facebook newfound financial clout as it tries to become even more pervasive. It also could help Facebook fend off the challenge from Google, which is looking to solidify its status as the Internet's most powerful company with a rival social network called Plus.

The IPO filing casts a spotlight on some of Facebook's inner workings for the first time, revealing the it's revenue, major shareholders, growth opportunities and concerns about its biggest competitive threats.

What's not in there, yet, is Facebook's market value, which could hit $100 billion, based on Facebook's rapid growth and the appraisals that steered investors who bought stakes while the company was still private. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian car sales accelerate with new year

Automakers saw strong Canadian sales in the opening month of 2012 with many reporting double-digit growth from a year ago and some even setting January sales records.

Overall sales grew 15.4 per cent to 97,497 vehicles last month, according to data released Wednesday from the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada.

Sales have been boosted by persistently low interest rates, buyers searching for better fuel efficiency, and those looking to replace older vehicles as the average vehicle age on Canadian roads climbs.

Chrysler Canada had its best January in a decade, Ford lost its spot as Canada's top seller but continued to gain traction, and Toyota sales jumped as supply caught up to demand. Ford Canada sales also grew, by five per cent, to 14,978 vehicles, compared with 14,324 in January 2011.

One sour spot was at General Motors, where sales dropped 10 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada leaning less on U.S.: TD

The Canadian economy appears to be on a long-term trend toward less dependence on the United States, according to a new study by TD Economics.

The study, released Wednesday, found that Canada's economic reliance on the U.S. in terms of share of exports and GDP has dropped steadily over the last decade.

For example, exports to the U.S. directly contributed an annual average of 0.5 percentage points to nominal GDP growth over the last decade. That was well below an average annual contribution of 2.3 percentage points during the 1980s and 1990s.

TD Economics says a rebound in U.S. economic growth should boost Canadian exports south of the border over the next few years.

But over the long term, the bank said Canada's economic prosperity will increasingly be driven by trade with other non-U.S. economies.

That will reinforce the trend in recent years, where Canadian economic power is shifting more and more from Central Canada to the energy and resource-rich western provinces.

The export shift also likely means future job growth in the Canadian economy will come mainly from the energy, mining and other resource industries based in Western Canada and which export more of their output to China, Japan and other international markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 65.51 (12,517.66)	+ 0.37¢ (100.09¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas	Gold
- 87¢ US ($97.61 US)	$2.32 US (- 18¢ US)	$1,749.50 US (+ $9.10 US)

Hotel to unveil Canada's largest yoga centre

The historic Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg is expanding into the yoga business in a big way. On Feb. 11, the 1,860-square-metre Yoga Public, which is billed as the largest yoga facility in Canada, is set to open. The centre will offer a variety of programs, including trendy hot yoga and TRX suspension training.

A yoga-spa weekend package is from $159 per person. Drop-in classes are $21. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New GE aircraft engine centre to offer up jobs

Industrial giant General Electric has opened a new $50 million aircraft engine testing, research and development centre in Winnipeg that could eventually create up to 50 jobs.

The U.S. company said Wednesday the centre will be run by joint venture partner StandardAero and will perform icing certification testing and develop other tests and equipment for GE Aviation's aircraft engines. It will employ 10 people initially.

The new centre is at the James A. Richardson International Airport and will be maintained and run by StandardAero, a Winnipeg company.

The Winnipeg-based aircraft repair and services company employs about 4,000 people around the world and is owned by Dubai Aerospace Enterprise. It has many Canadian customers, including WestJet Airlines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINTER, WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER?

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

Dear Winter:

Please come back. I miss you.

It was cute at first, you disappearing. I thought it was for effect, maybe. You just wanted to wait till the best moment, then, surprise! You'd show yourself when we least expected it. You flake, you.

But another week slid by.

Then I thought maybe you were making fun of all those weatherpeople who predicted a deep freeze. Stupid "mediarologists" and their TV-ready descriptions of complex systems. ("After the break, we'll tell you about tomorrow's Sleet Quasar!")

You showed them, I thought. But, then, still no sign of you.

Most recently, I thought maybe you wanted to make a point about other disappearances — manufacturing jobs, polar bears, the Toronto Maple Leafs at playoff time. These are good, important points to make. But, if that was your intention, your point has been made.

Where are you? You snapped in Edmonton a couple times, and blew through the Maritimes this week, but that's been pretty much it.

Let's have some Real Talk, OK? You're being selfish.

If you won't think of us, won't you think of the children? You're denying kids important life lessons they only learn when you're around. Like, when I was young, I learned that sledding had an elaborate social pecking order, from the kid who owned a GT Snowracer (King of the Hill) to the kid with the Crazy Carpet that was always reverting to its Fruit Roll-Up shape (Lowly Serf).

You provided me some of my only adventures growing up. In New Brunswick, we didn't have any of the most common natural disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, Bryan Adams concerts. The only Discovery Channel doc you'd ever see filmed in my hometown is Fog Chasers.

So, craving excitement, I had to get by with delivering newspapers in blizzards or playing street hockey in -15 C weather. It's perhaps sad that I've never felt more alive.

If this is what it takes to get you back, let me say this: I'm sorry. I'm sorry I took you for granted.

You were harsh, but I realize now it was necessary. A playful pinch to the cheeks or even a cold slap is a welcome respite from the limp handshake of the muddy impostor that has taken your place.

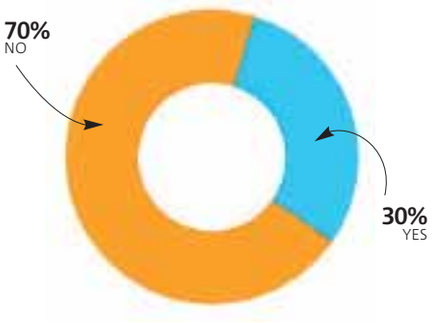
I miss making the first scritch-scritch footprints in a park of untouched snow. I miss Arctic fog rising off the water on a frigid day. I miss your cold embrace.

The place just isn't the same without you, Winter. Come back: my Crazy Carpet is always unrolled for you.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Have you ever been a victim of cyber-bullying?

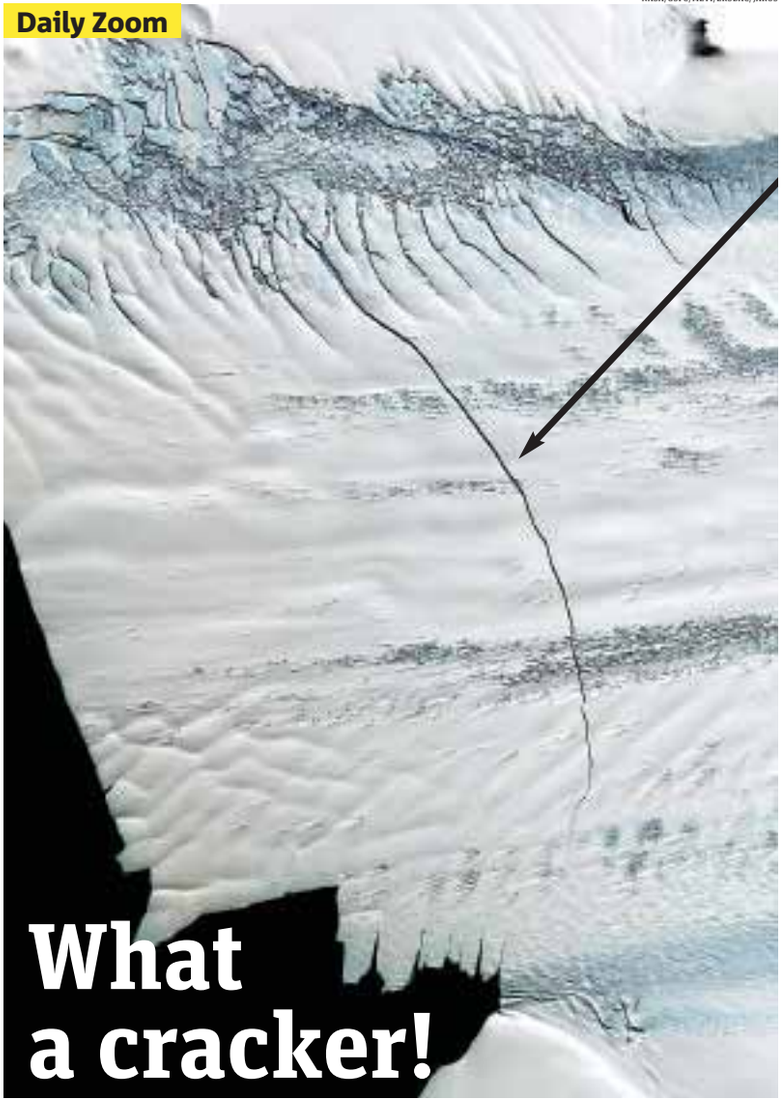


Local tweets

- **@Tree_Bag:** @amypfinky D: HOW CAN YOU HATE WINNIPEG?! I LOOOOOOVE IT! IN FACT, IF I COULD GO THERE RIGHT NOW, I WOULD! D:
- **@coldcanuck:** Can hardly wait to get my "I survived the great Manitoba Earth Quake of 2012" T-Shirt
- **@NeonCaucasian:** Oh i forgot to tweet this. If you're around 200 other people taking their exam, STOP BANGING YOUR PENCIL LIKE THEY'RE DRUMSTICKS.
- **@JurassicMatt:** Seismometer here at UofM geology dept. in Winnipeg didn't register anything; not even a blip it seems. #Earthquake #Winnipeg
- **@AuthenticSMR:** Back on this day in 1963 at a country club in Winnipeg Neil Young (17 years old at the time) played his 1st professional show.
- **@friellax:** Father just said Winnipeg is the capital of Quebec. Can I divorce my family now or something?
- **@carrierclan:** @weathernetwork, the hoarfrost on the trees were an awesome sight this morning, but the fog throughout Winnipeg was as thick as pea soup.

Daily Zoom

NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS



What a cracker!

Crevice cuts ice from the north

ANTARCTICA. Nay, nay, it's not a scratch — it's a 30-kilometre-long crack that will carve an iceberg the size of New York City!

NASA has spotted a deep crevice on Pine Island Glacier, an ice stream that drains the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

The image, taken in November 2011 but only released Wednesday, shows the crack's growth. MWN

80X60

The ice crack is 80 metres wide and 60 metres deep. Measurements suggest the ice shelf in the region is about 500 metres thick, with only about 50 metres of that floating above water.

Pine Island

- **The Pine Island Glacier is part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and** contains enough water to raise sea levels worldwide by more than six metres.
- Experts last year discovered warm currents are eroding ice from below, twice as fast as previously thought.

metro

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2 scene

The bare bones Bluebird

Bluebird North strips away the musical accoutrement for unique show at The Park Theatre

HANDOUT

▶ Murray Pulver is a guitarist in Doc Walker.

BACKSTAGE PASS

JARED STORY
METRO WINNIPEG

Presented by the Songwriters Association of Canada, Bluebird North is an up close and personal music showcase based on Nashville's famed Bluebird Cafe and its informal In the Round concert format.

"It gives people an opportunity to hear songs from the writers rather than the artists, giving you a little story behind the song while exposing you to great songwriters and performers," says guitarist Murray Pulver, 40, a member of Portage la Prairie country band Doc Walker.

"You're not going to hear these songs in this kind of setting very often because it's just an acoustic guitar and vocals, pretty bare bones. It's a neat way to hear how something was born."

Joining Pulver at the songwriting/storytelling showcase is MacKenzie Porter (sister of Canadian Idol winner Kalan Porter), Alabama Music Hall of Fame member Marc-Alan Barnette and Halifax-born, 'Peg-based alt-country artist Ridley Bent.

The latter is renowned and respected for his ability to spin a yarn, winning Country Recording of the Year at the 2011 Western Canadian Music Awards for his most recent album Rabbit on my Wheel.

"I'm very literal, I like my songs to make sense," Bent says, 41.

"That being said, I also like coming up with a line that doesn't make sense, a line that I just like. I love a good rhyme, that's my thing. I don't find writing melodies that easy but when I do write a nice one, that's the most satisfying thing."

Pulver can relate to that last bit. Despite playing in a country band and co-writing songs for many a country artist, he says he's more inclined to pop music, where it's all about the hook and the lyrics are open for discussion.

"I like songs that just catch the ear," Pulver says.

"In the country world people just live for the story and the lyrics, but I come from that other world where there can be lines blurred and the song's meaning is unclear, it's just the melody and the chord structure that entices. I don't feel I'm so much a storyteller, but a communicator."

Bluebird North Winnipeg goes down tonight at The Park Theatre. The event is hosted by Breakfast Television's Jenna Khan. Tickets are $12 at the door. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

New Jersey

Hoboken, New Jersey, has denied a request for a spin-off of MTV's Jersey Shore reality show to film in the city. It is to star Nicole Snooki Polizzi and Jenni JWoww Farley. Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer says the Film Commission's decision was made based on safety and quality of life concerns for residents of the city along the Hudson River.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You should watch for it

DC Comics announcing it will release a prequel series to the Watchmen

HANDOUT

SAM CASTONE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A seven-part prequel series to Watchmen, one of the most popular graphic novels of all time, will appear this summer, according to DC Entertainment, publishers of DC Comics.

The news is sure to excite fanboys, but also disgust some: Original Watchmen creator Alan Moore, who has long feuded with DC, is not involved with the new series and none too happy about their decision.

Instead, a pack of other star talents, including J. Michael Straczynski (The Amazing Spider-Man) and Darwyn Cooke (Catwoman), will write installments, each centering around a different character.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," said DC Entertainment co-publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee.

"After 25 years, the Watchmen are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."

The original, published in 1986 and 1987, followed a defunct batch of superheroes brought back together after the death of a colleague.

Neil Young: Steve Jobs listened to vinyl because of higher fidelity

No mini meatball ... yet

Calzone not in the oven for Snooki ◗ Translation: Pregnancy rumour is false

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared Snooki was pregnant.

It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumour from RadarOnline.

"She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend Jionni LaValle had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

While a photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki bump, it did fail to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces.

Finally, she made an appearance on Opie & Anthony to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki.

"Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it. METRO MONICA WEYMOUTH

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Snooki

Celebrity tweets

@JessicaSimpson
Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!

@joshgroban
Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.

@SteveMartinToGo
PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

@jeweljk
We have 56 calves on the ground- SO cute- ya just wanna hug them all!

▶ Leslie Carter

Carter sister dies

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter and a star of House of Carters — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death.

"Our family is grieving right now and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter, and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement. METRO

Soul Train host Don Cornelius dead in apparent suicide

Soul Train producer and host Don Cornelius was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Cornelius created the show in 1970, and hosted it until 1993.

"He was a true television visionary and his contributions to African American culture, music, and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said Kenard Gibbs, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement.

METRO

▶ Don Cornelius

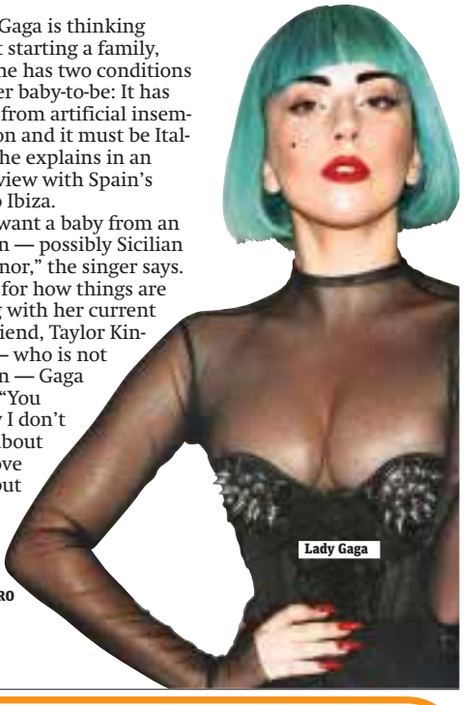
Note: Baby Gaga must be Italian

Lady Gaga is thinking about starting a family, but she has two conditions for her baby-to-be: It has to be from artificial insemination and it must be Italian, she explains in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

"I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says.

As for how things are going with her current boyfriend, Taylor Kinney — who is not Italian — Gaga says, "You know I don't talk about my love life, but I'm very happy."

METRO


Lady Gaga

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

3 life

Oscar contenders?

The most award show worthy dresses from ss12 couture week:

Armani Privé

A strapless universally flattering shape + a shimmery bandage effect = Best Dressed List Bait. Take note Jessica.

Chanel

The whimsical, fashion-forward girliness is just right for one of the more adventurous 'Hollywood Young Things' (we're talking about you, Emma Stone.)

Gambattista Valli

It's black, edgy and mysterious with sheer panels and cut-outs. A total Rooney Mara kind of dress.

Toronto Fashion Week gets new name as World MasterCard becomes sponsor.

- The popularity of the wide-brimmed has been bubbling on the runway for a while now
- But this winter, hats from nearly all decades have become a full-blown trend
- Here are some of our favourites

Return of the hat
(you knew it would be back)

▶ Alexandra Davenport, a student in London, pulls off the hat with aplomb.

THREE FAB HATTERS

MODEL YOUR LOOK AFTER MOVIE QUEENS ▶ The Artist, Annie Hall and Cabaret

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

1

AUBERGINE BORSALINO

▶ $492, lockhatters.co.uk

2

SPORTMAX FEDORA

▶ $118, my-wardrobe.com

3

PAUL SMITH FEDORA

▶ $215, paulsmith.co.uk

4

EUGENIA KIM GABRIELLA RABBIT FELT FEDORA

▶ $375, net-a-porter.com

5

TOPSHOP FLOPPY FEDORA

▶ $50, topshop.com

Flavour of simplicity

This rib roast with roasted veggies and shallot-merlot gravy makes for an elegant dinner party meal Features readily available pantry staples

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Perfect for a dinner party, this meal serves 24.

Make a special meal for your next dinner party with this rib roast, roasted veggies and a flavourful gravy made with shallots and merlot wine.

Preparation:

1 In large roasting pan, arrange onions, carrots, celery, garlic, thyme and rosemary in even layer.

2 Season rib roast all over with salt and pepper. Place roast on top of vegetables in roasting pan. Roast in 245 C (475 F) oven 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 160 C (325 F). Roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until roast reads 55 C (130 F) at the centre for medium or 50 C (120 F) for medium-rare.

3 Transfer roast to a serving platter and cover with foil and keep warm. Set aside roasting pan.

4 Roasted Root Vegetables: In bowl, toss carrots, parsnips, beets and potatoes with oil, rosemary, salt and pepper. Spread evenly on 2 rimmed baking sheets. When roast comes out of oven, raise temperature to 200 C (400 F). Roast vegetables, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until tender and browned.

5 Shallot Merlot Gravy: Place roasting pan over medium-high heat. Add wine to reserved roasting pan juices and scrape up any browned bits from bottom of pan. Using slotted spoon, remove and discard any solids. Add shallots, thyme, and 500 ml (2 cups) of the beef broth. Bring to simmer; cook 3 minutes.

6 In bowl, whisk remaining beef broth and flour. While stirring , add this mixture to roasting pan. Cook while stirring for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve roasted vegetables and gravy alongside roast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients:

- 4 onions, quartered
- 4 each large carrots and celery stalks, cut into large pieces
- 1 head garlic, broken into cloves and peeled
- 4 sprigs each fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 bone-in rib roast (5.5 to 6.3 kg/12 to 14 lb)
- Salt and black pepper

Roasted Root Vegetables

- 1 kg (2 lb) each carrots, parsnips, beets, and Yukon gold potatoes cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) pieces
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) canola oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) black pepper

Shallot-Merlot Gravy

- 250 ml (1 cup) Merlot wine
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced fresh thyme
- 750 ml (3 cups) beef broth
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- Salt and black pepper

YOU DON'T HAVE AN UGLY MUG, SO WHY DRINK FROM ONE?

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@ METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the butler,
How do I remove tough tea and coffee stains on my mugs? Thanks!
Tran

Dear Tran,

Here are a few good suggestions for you.

Put some baking soda and warm water in the mug and wash the inside with a soft sponge (do not use any abrasive side). If you do this regularly, it should work like a charm.

If the stain is a little older, add some lemon juice to the baking soda and make a paste. Let the paste stand in the mug for an hour or so before washing with the sponge.

The acid and baking soda combination should do the trick. If you use the baking soda regularly, you won't need to use any chemicals.

If the above fails, I have used a Magic Eraser sponge with success.

Also, on really old, tough stains, I've made a mixture of 1 part dishwasher soap to 3 parts warm water and ½ a cup of white vinegar and let this sit inside the cup for an hour or so. It worked very well. HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

Coffee: So delicious to drink, but so difficult to clean.

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Ready to be a winter warrior?

Snow in an average shovelful can weigh nearly 30 pounds And twisting to throw a load is hard on the back

DIY IDEAS

Although many areas have been relatively snow-free this winter, snow removal woes are just one storm away.

So here are some strategies, and the latest tools.

First, have a plan before the flakes start falling. If you're not physically up to shovelling, arrange for a plowing service or enlist some kids to at least do your walkways; many communities mandate that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of a storm.

If you are taking on the snow yourself, take it easy.

Warm up, start slow and cover your mouth if the air is very cold, according to Dr. Grace Cater, a cardiologist in Cleveland. "Snow shovelling can be more strenuous than exercising full throttle on a treadmill," Cater says on MetroHealth's Heart and Vascular Center's webpage.

Bill Foster, who for 40 years has shovelled his own and neighbours' snowy sidewalks and driveways in the western Chicago suburbs, says common sense can make the job easier.

"The biggest mistake people make is starting with the easy stuff," Foster says.

"When you're freshest and strongest, start at the end of the driveway where the plow dumps all the heavy road snow."

A few more tips for keeping things manageable, from Good Housekeeping magazine:

1. Don't put your back into it: Use your leg and thigh muscles instead, and push more snow than you lift.

2. Layer up: No heavy down coats for this job — it's better to dress in layers you can remove as you work. Make sure caps or masks don't impede your ability to see cars, icy spots, or people. You don't want to whack someone with your shovel.

3. Drink up: Water keeps you hydrated as you work.

4. Stop when you need to, and take breaks every 15 minutes or sooner: Make sure family members and friends know you're out there.

Foster recommends cutting the driveway down the middle so you are shovelling smaller passes out to the sides from the centre line.

"And never wait till the snow stops falling," he says. "I'd go out two or three times during a storm to stay ahead of it all."

Popular Mechanics writer Roy Berendsohn advises clearing the car off thoroughly before starting on the driveway. He also recommends keeping a stiff brush and some oil handy to remove buildup on snow-blower blades. Make sure paths are clear of newspapers, dog toys, rocks and electrical cords before you fire yours up.

Also, decide where the snow's going to go before you start. Starting to shovel from the house out to the perimeter of the property is inefficient. Drop the first load far enough away from where you start so that you'll have room for piles as you work your way back to your starting position.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Garden-variety snow shovels have been doing the snow removal job for hundreds of years, but many of today's tools can make it easier.

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A ruggedly handsome space

Home decor expert Karl Lohnes lays down the rules for choosing an area rug

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have laminate wood floors throughout my small condo and would like to add an area rug to the living room, which is 10 by 14 feet. What size should I choose and what style won't make it feel cramped?
T. Fulham, Winnipeg

A. Area rugs not only help to link living room furnishings together, but to define spaces that are open to one another as well.

The biggest mistakes people make when choosing an area rug is that they buy the wrong size (often too small), and they choose a look that doesn't belong with anything else in the room.

The simplest way to determine the right sized area rug in a living area is to measure the width of the room then subtract two or three feet; this will give you the width of the rug needed. For instance, if your room is 10-feet wide you will need an eight-foot wide rug.

Area rugs come in predetermined sizes; an eight-foot wide rug will be about 10-feet long. That is the size that suits your living area.

Best style of carpet

If you have printed fabrics on your furnishings or draperies then go with a discretely patterned or solid-coloured rug.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The right area rug can help define spaces that are open to one another.

If furnishings are upholstered in plain fabrics, then a patterned rug can help add pizzazz to the overall decor scheme.

Another idea is to take inspiration from artwork that you might have collected. For example, if you like watercolour paintings, then choose a rug that has soft, airy colours and patterns. If you collect black-and-white photography, then a solid, neutral-coloured rug will work nicely in the room.

If your room is feeling cramped with furnishings, then choose a colour of rug that is very similar to the colour of the wood flooring; this will give you the cosiness of the rug but visually will not chop up the space by adding yet another element.

How much to spend

An eight-by-10 foot area rug can cost from $200 to $5,000, depending on the quality. I always suggest spending between one to two times the price of the sofa. It's an easy way to gage the quality and value needed so the rug works with the rest of the room.

How will it wear?

- **Synthetic fibres** are durable for busy lived-in rooms and can take on the look of elegant wool and silk.
- **Think longevity** These rugs have about a five-year lifespan, whereas real wool carpets can last a lifetime.

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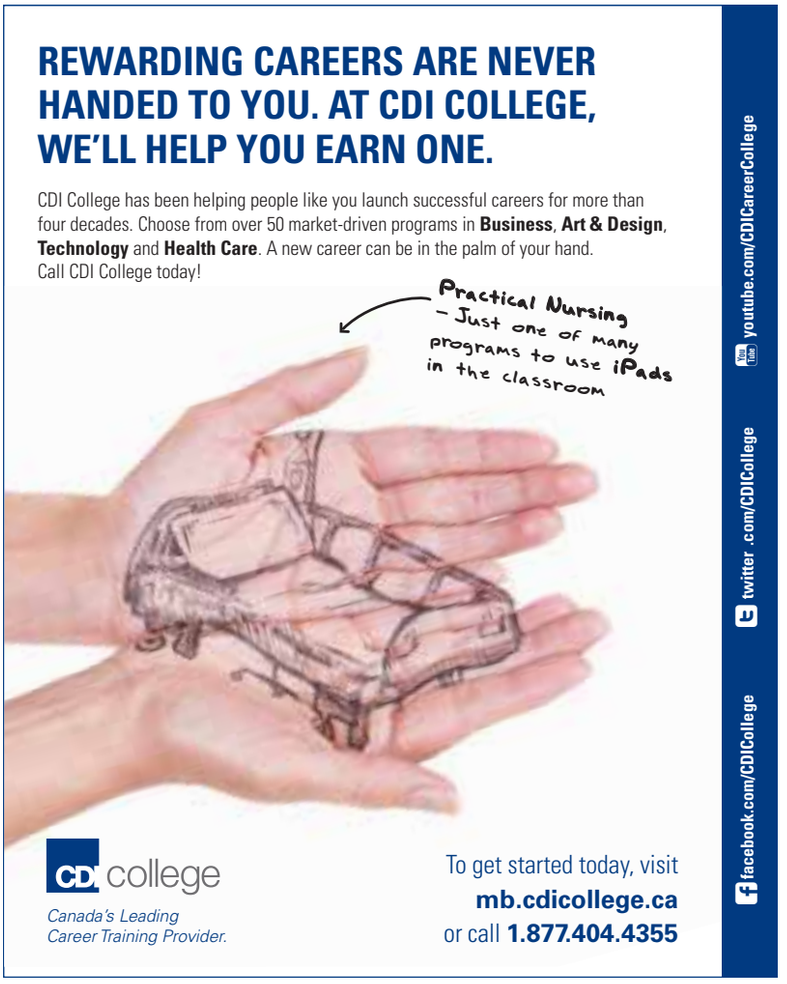
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4 sports

Playoff hopes in their hands

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

With 31 games to go, the Winnipeg Jets sit four points out of top spot in the Southeast Division, four points out of the eight-hole in the Eastern Conference and seven points out of the conference's basement.

Even though they don't appear to be that far out, the odds are stacked against the Jets to slip into the playoffs, so if they are to make the charge, a few players have to step up starting now.

PAUL BERESWILL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Captain Andrew Ladd will need to contribute consistently for the Jets to climb into a playoff spot.

Andrew Ladd: For the past four years, Ladd has seen his point totals ebb and flow in waves and 2011-12 just happens to be a down slope in this trend. But that's no excuse — Ladd is the captain and leader of a young team and though he's on pace for a respectable number of goals, he needs to make his presence in the offensive zone known with more regularity. Others such as Bryan Little and Blake Wheeler have had point surges this season, so Ladd's time is overdue — it's time for him to pull through in the clutch.

Alexander Burmistrov: You can't really knock a 20-year-old for lacking consistency, but Burmistrov needs to chip in more down the stretch than he has lately. While he has been in and out of the lineup with minor injuries lately, the Russian has only one point since Dec. 27 after a great start to the year. Secondary scoring is key to any team's success and Burmistrov could help fill in that role and also be effective on the defensive side of the puck.

Nik Antropov — OK, so Big Nik won't ever be a prolific scorer in the NHL, but he is a senior member of the Jets and needs to contribute as such. While the 67 points he reached two years ago were an anomaly, Antropov is on pace for only 13 goals, which just doesn't cut it. Antropov has been hot lately with six points in five games, but if he slows to a crawl again, he'd be better served as trade bait (if a partner can even be found) than doing what he's done this season.

Jets preview

Winnipeg at Tampa Bay
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN-Jets

The Jets (23-22-6) travel to Tampa Bay (22-23-4) for the second time this season. Winnipeg beat the Lightning 1-0 the first time, on Oct. 29. Steven Stamkos scored in overtime on Tuesday as Tampa Bay edged Washington 4-3 to stretch its winning streak to five games. Stamkos leads the league with 33 goals. Teddy Purcell has six goals in his last eight games, raising his season total to 13. Marc-Andre Bergeron (upper body) is day-to-day. He leads all Lightning defencemen with 24 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Brewers outfielder takes to the ice with Sharks

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Nyjer Morgan, right, shakes hands with former San Jose Sharks player Mike Ricci.

On his fourth attempt during a hockey breakaway drill, Nyjer Morgan shot the puck past Sharks goalie Thomas Greiss to score in the bottom right corner of the net. Greiss did the Milwaukee Brewers outfielder a favour and let it go in, with Morgan later thanking him with a firm pat to the chest pad.

A giddy Morgan cheered, thrust his stick in the air and became a bit wobbly on the ice before recovering.

When asked about it after his outing Wednesday, he became defensive.

"But how many athletes do you know who can just jump on the ice and do what I just did? Exactly," Morgan said. "Pretty cool, huh? It's been many moons, it's been a lot of years, yeah. And I've still got it, you see that?"

At last, the diehard San Jose fan and former hockey player got the chance to practise with the team he loves.

"Tony Plush," as he refers to himself, stepped out for the first time 36 minutes into the hour-long session sporting a Sharks jersey with "Plush" on back.

Morgan's first three shots on goal were easily stopped by Greiss, who eased up on the last attempt.

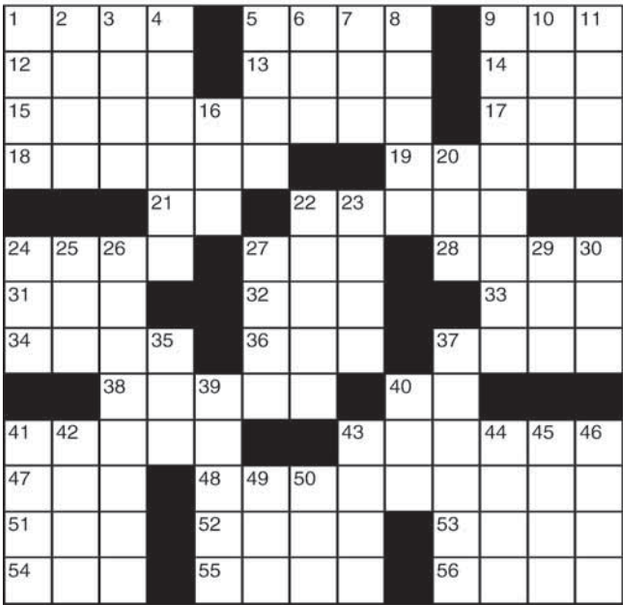
"He just came down with a nice shot and put it in," Greiss said. "He skates really well. He's said he likes to get on his skates and have fun. You could see that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First love

Morgan grew up playing hockey and appeared in seven games with the Regina Pats.

Crossword



Across

1 Close
5 Sidewalk eatery
9 Eccentric
12 Volcanic outflow
13 "Caro nome" is one
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Comic's specialty
17 Right angle
18 Book after Job
19 iPhone function
21 Chance, for short
22 Hue
24 Presentation
27 Second person
28 Out of control
31 Charged bit
32 Pismire
33 Ram's mate
34 Profound
36 In medias —
37 Seaport of Yemen
38 Exciting
40 Commercial
41 Search for prey
43 Plant life treatises
47 Rowing need
48 Getting the jump on
51 USO audience
52 Trumpet
53 Chinese gang
54 Praise in verse
55 Dumbstruck
56 Remain

Down

1 Feed the hogs
2 — Christian Andersen
3 Eye layer
4 Candle fat
5 Trash containers
6 "All the Things You —"
7 Evergreen type
8 Supporter of the arts?
9 — bandit (slot machine)
10 Sandwich shop
11 Action figure, really
16 Mischievous kid
20 Kiwi's extinct cousin
22 — Island
23 Inning trio
24 Rocker Vicious
25 Weeding tool
26 Small town description
27 Play area
29 Have bills
30 Barbie's companion
35 Parishioner's seat
37 Takes as one's own
39 Island greeting
40 Matterhorn, for one
41 Comic strip possum
42 Incursion
43 Money supply
44 Laugh-a-minute
45 "— Karenina"
46 Like custard or quiche
49 Present
50 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

P	U	P	A		S	A	W		A	R	A	M
I	R	I	S		C	I	A		P	E	R	U
E	G	G	H	E	A	D	S		O	D	E	S
R	E	S	E	L	L		P	A	S	H	A	S
			S	U	P		S	I	T	E		
A	D	A		L	E	O		L	L	A	M	A
S	N	I	P		D	A	M		E	D	A	M
P	A	R	I	S		K	I	M		S	O	P
			H	A	I	R		N	I	L		
S	I	E	N	N	A		A	N	E	M	I	A
A	C	A	I		J	A	R	H	E	A	D	S
R	O	D	S		I	C	E		K	Y	L	E
I	N	S	T		V	E	T		S	O	Y	A

Sudoku

	5		1		8		2	
	1	6	3		4	7	9	
6			2		3			5
		4	8		5	3		
5			9		1			7
	7	9	4		6	1	5	
	3		7		2		8	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	1	8	2	4	5	7	9	3
5	2	7	3	9	8	4	1	6
4	9	3	1	7	6	8	2	5
2	3	5	4	8	1	9	6	7
1	7	4	6	2	9	5	3	8
8	6	9	5	3	7	2	4	1
3	4	6	8	5	2	1	7	9
9	5	2	7	1	3	6	8	4
7	8	1	9	6	4	3	5	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

K T,
I never believed in soulmates until I looked into your eyes. The way you have touched my life there can be no one else. Please find your way back to me.
A S

The Muscle Man,
You stimulate me with your metal wires and I send you my M-wave. Oh what an image your sweet arteries have left on my heart. Come and get another balloon?
KINETICALLY YOURS, OXYGEN

Mushroommelt,
Your mushroomness brightens my day, and there isn't enough mushroom melts to make the world go round in my opinion! I miss bussing to school with you and head bobbing on the way home, change your school schedule so mushroom and tuna melts can rule the world again. P.S check your sugars. **TUNAMELT**

A look at the weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Min -4° Max -1°	Min -7° Max -1°	Min -7° Max 1°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
No matter how difficult a situation may be, you are smart enough to find a solution and apply it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Some of the things a loved one says may annoy you today but there is no point getting annoyed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Wherever you've been held back in recent weeks is where you'll make progress over the next few days.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you make an effort to look beyond everyday issues, you will discover something that has the potential to transform your life.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
The best way to deal with changing circumstances is to adapt yourself. Try moving with the times.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Someone will come to your aid today. Don't turn down his or her offer of assistance just because you don't want to look weak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
The planets indicate it will be to your benefit to try to see yourself as others see you today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Fate is about to give you an opportunity to prove yourself and if you are smart, you will take advantage.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Don't let people who don't know what they are talking about rub you up the wrong way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You like to check and double check before making a move. Be true to your nature today.

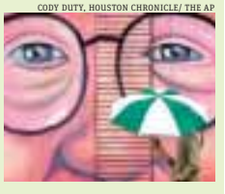
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
With Neptune, planet of illusion, about to move into the main financial area of your chart, it's not the time to be taking risks with money.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Don't take too much for granted today. Stay alert if you want to stay on your feet. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

NORBERT MILLAUER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CODY DUTY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/ THE AP



WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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